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The Foreign Service
of the
United States of America

Office of the Air Attache
American Embassy
Saigon, Viet Nam

April 14, 1956

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[Redacted]
Chief, Saigon Bureau
FBIS
Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear Sir:

In the capacity of Air Attache, Saigon, I have had the requirement to make extensive use of the service provided by the FBIS office in Saigon. My evaluation of this service, based on two years with the American Embassy, Saigon, follows.

Inasmuch as the United States does not maintain diplomatic relations with the communists of North Viet Nam, there is little opportunity to actually follow events behind that communist curtain. The monitoring of Radio Hanoi and the translation service of FBIS, therefore, provides one of the principal sources of information regarding North Viet Nam. Although these reports are usually communist propaganda, they nevertheless, provide a source of information which can be subjected to careful analysis and from which certain deductions can be made.

The local press survey has also proven extremely helpful in assessing local efforts to counteract communist propaganda. The Cambodian reports have been found useful in maintaining knowledge of the general situation in Cambodia.

In my opinion, one of the principal overall benefits of the FBIS in Saigon, is the opportunity the services give for the Embassy to keep well informed on the three countries of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos with a minimum of time and effort expended on the part of the user of the service. This factor of saving time and effort is very important in the routine of this Embassy.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the thoroughness of the FBIS coverage. I feel that the services provided have been excellently conceived and superbly executed.

Most sincerely,

WILLIAM L. TUDOR
Colonel, USAF
Air Attache